

**MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS
AND SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL**

April 26, 2016

Vouchers to House Homeless Veterans

The Los Angeles County Community Development Commission/Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (County Housing Authority) receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program. The County Housing Authority has a voucher allocation of 1,744 for this program. Historically, we have used a portion of this allocation to incentivize the development of new communities for homeless veterans by offering developers Project-Based vouchers. We currently have nine such projects, which are completed or in the pipeline around Los Angeles County (County). The Housing Authority is working with affordable housing developers around the County and staff members from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs towards the goal of using a portion of this allocation to incentivize the acquisition and rehabilitation of property for homeless veterans by offering developers Project-Based vouchers. We would like to recognize the Administration, and specifically the leadership of Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald, in supporting our initiatives to end veteran homelessness in the County.

We were pleased to learn that on April 21, 2016, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 Transportation, Housing, and

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Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill and provided \$50 million for the HUD-VASH program. Language was also included directing HUD-VASH dollars to regions still dealing with homelessness. This program is very important to us and to the many homeless veterans living in Los Angeles County. We ask for support for new HUD-VASH vouchers in FFY 2017, as well as continued support for the President's FFY 2017 Budget request for the \$11 billion for family homelessness, to address the homelessness issues facing Los Angeles County as directed in the Board's March 8, 2016 motion.

Additionally, as a part of the County's Homelessness Initiative, the County Housing Authority will use all turnover Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to help house chronically homeless individuals, many of whom are veterans. HUD-VASH standards are different from HCV standards, and may not allow us to help as many homeless people as we would like. Therefore, we support regulatory relief of the HCV program through implementation of regulatory measures that would allow HACoLA to assist the homeless population without fundamentally altering the admission and eligibility policies that it has determined as reasonable for the population at large.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board

Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to:

1. Send a 5-signature letter to the Secretary McDonald thanking him for his leadership and working closely with the county to continue the fight to end veteran's homelessness.
2. Send a 5-signature letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee leadership communicating the County's efforts and requesting L.A. County's fair share of HUD-VASH vouchers and flexibility in HCV standards to support the County's efforts to house the chronically homeless; and

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HLS:kd